



Criteria and Code of Conduct for Program, Support and Volunteer Staff at Chester's First Baptist Church

Chester's First Baptist Church (CFBC) requires her paid and volunteer staff to be a good witness to the Lord Jesus and His Church. All staff are tasked with performing his/her position in accordance with the beliefs and teachings of Chester's First Baptist Church. Those beliefs are found in The Holy Bible, The Baptist Faith & Message, Church Constitution and By-Laws, Church Covenant and our Vision Statement. Copies of these documents are available at the church office.

The Church Covenant of FBC: (From the 1988 Constitution of the First Baptist Church, Chester, Illinois)

The First Baptist Church adopts as its covenant the following:

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus as our Savior and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

For the Advancement of this Church

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines;

As Christian Stewards

We contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations,

Alone and at Home

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances;

Before the World

To walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of, and use of, intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

Toward One Another

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

When We Move

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God’s Word.

Application of the Church Covenant to Program, Support & Volunteer Staff:

All program, support and volunteer staff at Chester’s First Baptist Church, are representatives of the church. They are to comply with the expected standards of conduct, behavior, spiritual dedication, and discipline as described by the Church Covenant. Failure to comply with the expectations outlined in the above covenant will result in potential disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion or dismissal.

The Vision Statement of CFBC:

Our Vision is to be a family of believers led by the Holy Spirit in expressing sincere love to God and one another by worshiping and fellowshiping together consistently and in unity, personally sharing the message of Jesus, actively participating in ministry and missions, living holy lives, and striving to become mature Christians through prayer and the regular study of God’s Word.

Application of the Vision Statement to Support & Program Staff:

All Ministerial, Support and volunteer staff are obligated to uphold the vision statement of Chester’s First Baptist Church. Having a good Christian witness is to be sought after by all members of CFBC, but leaders are especially expected to protect their personal witness and the witness of the church at which he/she is called to serve. Our staff (paid & volunteer) is many times the voice and face that represents CFBC to the public, guests, and the church membership. The highest moral standards this body holds to be dear are to be maintained and perpetuated by its paid and volunteer staff in public, private and on social media. Protecting the integrity of Christ, His Kingdom, this church and the ministry of our Pastor is of paramount importance. Failure to uphold these cherished beliefs may be cause for disciplinary action, including dismissal.

The vision statement and The Baptist Faith and Message does not exhaust the extent of the beliefs of Chester’s First Baptist Church. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe as a Church. For purposes of Chester’s First Baptist Church’s faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Pastor and Deacon Body are CFBC’s final interpretive authority on the Bible’s meaning and application.

_____, agrees to the best of my ability to fulfill the Criteria and Code of Conduct for Program, Support and Volunteer Staff at Chester’s First Baptist Church.

Date: _____

Dr. Michael D. Fogerson, Pastor